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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
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10/727,823

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Brian J. Brozell

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7485

27081

7590

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EXAMINER

SMALLEY, JAMES N

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

3781

MAIL DATE

DELIVERY MODE

03/21/2008

PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary	Application No. 10/727,823	Applicant(s) BROZELL ET AL.	
	Examiner JAMES N. SMALLEY	Art Unit 3781	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 10 December 2007.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 26,28-35,40-42,48-51 and 53 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 26,28-35,40-42,48-50 and 53 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☒ Claim(s) 51 is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Response to Amendment

1. Due to the new grounds of rejection, this action is **Non-Final**.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

2. The following is a quotation of the first paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall contain a written description of the invention, and of the manner and process of making and using it, in such full, clear, concise, and exact terms as to enable any person skilled in the art to which it pertains, or with which it is most nearly connected, to make and use the same and shall set forth the best mode contemplated by the inventor of carrying out his invention.

3. Claims 26 and 28-29 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph, as failing to comply with the enablement requirement. The claim(s) contains subject matter which was not described in the specification in such a way as to enable one skilled in the art to which it pertains, or with which it is most nearly connected, to make and/or use the invention. The Specification fails to enable a mode whereby the closure only has one lug, thus rendering the limitation "at least one internal lug" in line 7 as not being enabled by the disclosure. To the best degree the Examiner understands the claimed invention, the disclosure limits at least one pair of lugs, but not one lug.

In other words, Examiner is objecting to the use of the phrase "at least one" because no embodiment has been taught where invention can operate with just one lug. To the best degree the Examiner understands the claimed invention, a pair of lugs are required for proper function of the novel feature of the invention. It is suggested Applicant amend the claims to say "at least a pair of lugs" because this is the minimum structure that has been taught. By limiting "at least one lug", the Applicant is attempting to claim an embodiment with only one lug, and such an embodiment has not been enabled by the disclosure.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

4. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

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(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

5. Claim 26 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Shah et al. US 4,375,858 in view of Akers US 5,449,078.

Shah '858, in the embodiment of figures 7-8, teaches a container neck with a finish including a thread and a locking lug, and a closure having a thread, a locking lug, and an annular resilient spring element (10). The locking lug has a horizontal portion inbetween stop (20) and lug (15). Furthermore, the locking lug (14, 15, 20) is disposed on a step (13) which is radially outward of the neck finish on which the threads are disposed.

The reference teaches all the limitations substantially as claimed but fails to teach the closure locking lug having a sloping axially-oriented cam face.

Akers '078 teaches a child safety cap including corresponding locking lugs including a closure locking lug which has a sloping axially-oriented cam face, which engages a container locking lug in order to engage and close the container.

It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the closure locking lug of Shah '858, providing a sloping axially-oriented face to match the slope of the container locking lug, as taught to be known by Akers '078, motivated by the benefit of providing a smoother engagement between these sliding parts.

6. Claims 28-34, 40-41, 48-50 and 53 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Shah et al. US 4,375,858 in view of Akers US 5,449,078 as applied above to claim 26, and further in view of Swartzbaugh et al. US 4,399,920.

Shah '858, as applied above teaches all the limitations substantially as claimed, but fails to teach the closure comprising two lugs, which cooperate to prevent rotation of the closure in the opening direction.

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Swartzbaugh '920 teaches closure lugs (36, 37) and container lugs (25) which prevent removal of the closure from the container. Examiner notes the structure functions essentially the same as that of Shah '858 in that it prevents rotation of the cap in the removal direction. The difference between the two is that the additional lug is provided on the closure, and the stop lug (20) of Shah '858 is removed. A net material savings could be obtained if the closure lug is formed smaller than the stop lug.

It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the closure cap of Swartzbaugh '920, providing two separate lugs on the closure in place of one, and removing the stop portion (20) of Shah '858 in order to accommodate the function of preventing rotation of the closure in the removal direction, motivated by the benefit of reducing the amount of material used.

7. Claims 35 and 42 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Shah et al. US 4,375,858 in view of Akers US 5,449,078 and in view of Swartzbaugh et al. US 4,399,920 as applied above to claim 30 and further in view of Puresevic et al. US 4,523,688.

Shah '858, as applied above teaches all the limitations substantially as claimed, but fails to teach the closure biasing element being circumferentially segmented.

Puresevic '688 teaches between an annular biasing element in the embodiment of figures 1-8 and a segmented biasing element in figures 9-12. Though pointed inwardly, one of ordinary skill would recognize the benefits in material savings could be applied to any annular biasing element.

It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the biasing element of Shah '858, forming it in segments as taught to be known by Puresevic '688, motivated by the benefit of reducing the volume of material needed in order to form the closure.

Response to Arguments

8. Applicant's arguments filed December 10, 2007, regarding the rejections of claims 26, 28 and 29 under 35 U.S.C. 112, 2nd paragraph, have been fully considered but they are not persuasive.

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Examiner is objecting to the use of the phrase "at least one" because no embodiment has been taught where invention can operate with just one lug. To the best degree the Examiner understands the claimed invention, a pair of lugs are required for proper function of the novel feature of the invention. It is suggested Applicant amend the claims to say "at least a pair of lugs" because this is the minimum structure that has been taught. By limiting "at least one lug", the Applicant is attempting to claim an embodiment with only one lug, and such an embodiment has not been enabled by the disclosure.

9. Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 26, 28-35, 40-42, 48-51 and 53 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

Allowable Subject Matter

10. Claim 51 is objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to JAMES N. SMALLEY whose telephone number is (571)272-4547. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday - Friday 10 am - 7 pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Anthony Stashick can be reached on (571) 272-4561. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/James N Smalley/
Examiner, Art Unit 3781

/Anthony D Stashick/
Anthony Stashick
Supervisory Patent Examiner, Art Unit 3781